THE HUMBLE PETITION

OF

Many Thousand Citizens and Inhabitants in and about the City of *LONDON*.

To the Parliament of the *COMMON-WEALTH* of *ENGLAND*.

Together with the PARLIAMENTS *Answer thereunto.*

LONDON,
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Feb 15

HUMBLE PETITION

OF

A Thousand Citizens and

Inhabitants whereby of

LONDON:

To the Parliament of the COMMONWEALTH of

ENGLAND.

Against the PARLIAMENT Assembled.

Printed for [illegible] (Dyprum &c

[illegible] 16[illegible]

To the Parliament of the Common-wealth of England.

The Humble Petition of Diverſe, Citizens and Inhabitants in and about the City of *London*.

Sheweth,

THat whereas after a long Conteſt in this poore Iſland againſt Tyranny and Injuſtice (wherein the treaſure of the Nation hath been exhauſted, and the precious Blood of many thouſands ſpilt, the Parliament being Neceſſitated to ſpend their Time for many Years in maintaining the War, and providing for the Defence of themſelves, and ſuch who engaged with them in that quarrell) God hath been pleaſed (we hope in Mercy to the Nation) to bring You once again together in a time of Peace, to heal our Breaches, to Eſtabliſh firmly the Ancient Rights and Freedomes of *England*, which were the ſubject of this great quarrell (which God decided on our ſide) and to ſettle ſuch wayes of diſpenſing impartiall Juſtice, that the Name of God may be exalted in Righteouſneſs, and no man in the end have cauſe to repent of the Blood and Treaſure expended in the purſuance of the ſame.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly crave leave to preſent to your Honours their ſenſe of ſome of the principall things wherein that Tyranny conſiſted, againſt which we did then in Judgment and Conſcience Engage; Which were,

I. The late Kings Uſurpation over Parliaments, Committing and keeping diverſe of their Members in Priſon, as long as he thought good, without bringing them to tryall; In preventing their Meeting, and Diſſolving them when they were met, at Pleaſure: His Deniall and oppoſition of their Supream Truſt, to provide in all things for the ſafety and welfare of the People, under pretence of a Negative voice.

II. The Challenging of ſuch an Intereſt in the Militia, as to Command the ſame at his Pleaſure, without the Par-

liament, and to place the Subordinate Commands of the ſame in whom he pleaſed: whereby he claimed a Power to enforce Obedience to any of his illegal Commands, both in matters Religious and Civill; which directly tended to the razing out the very Name and Beeing of Parliaments, which have been the Ancient Preſervers of the Nations Freedome.

III. His Introducing and exerciſing of an Arbitrary Power by his Councel and others, over mens Perſons and Eſtates, when they ought to have been tryed by the Laws of the Land.

IV. His aſſuming a Right (under pretence of Neceſſity for the Nations good, and to ſecure it from future Attempts, whereof he onely would be Judge) to Leavy Money upon the People without their Conſent in Parliament; wherein (as in the Particulars aforeſaid) he pretended he was unaccountable for what he did, either to the Parliament, or any earthly Power whatſoever.

And your Petitioners doe humbly crave leave to minde your Honours of the many Signal Teſtimonies, which God hath given of his diſpleaſure againſt all who have endeavoured to ſupport the aforeſaid Tyranny, or have eſpouſed it as their quarrell, under any notion whatſoever: And of the price now put into your hands to ſecure the Nation, from future attempts and dangers of the like Nature: And not onely the Armies Declarations, and the Agreement of the People, propoſed by them (remaining upon Record in your Houſe) but the Ruines and Spoiles of the Land, and of the many Thouſand Families therein: The expence of many Millions of Treaſure, the wounds and ſcars, and loſt members of very many, and (above all) the precious blood of ſuch, who were ſlain in the quarrell, together with the long waiting, earneſt and patient expectation of many good people (retaining in their hearts affection to the good old Cauſe) cry aloud to you to call upon God with us for Wiſdome, that you may be taught, and enabled to eſtabliſh ſuch a ſure foundation of Right, Freedome and Juſtice, that the People of the Nation may not be put again upon ſuch hazards of their Lives and expence of their Eſtates for the defence of the ſame.

Theſe-

Therefore Your Petitioners Humbly pray,

That together with the constant succession of Free Parliaments duely Chosen, the Supream Power and Trust, which the People (the Original of all just Power) commit unto them, to make Laws, Constitutions and Offices for the Government of the whol, and to call all Officers of Justice, and Ministers of State whatsoever to accompt, may be so clearly Declared and Secured against all Attempts to the contrary, that no question may henceforth arise concerning the same.

That the Militia may be settled with such Wisdome and full Security, that it may not be in the power of any to make use thereof against the People, or their Successive Parliaments either to destroy their Being, or their Freedome.

That no Money may be Leavied upon the People (on any pretence whatsoever) but by their common Consent in Parliament.

That our Civill Warres being long since ended, the Peoples Persons and Estates may be onely subject to be disposed of according to the Laws of the Land; and that henceforth none may be reputed Offenders, or proceeded against by imprisonment, or otherwise, but such who shall be really found transgressors of the Law: And that there may be speedy consideration had of the long Imprisonment of many Persons well-affected (and some in remote places) without any due prosecution: And we the rather press this, because it hath been the practise of former Parliaments, and in particular of the late Memorable Long-Parliament, to take notice of, and redress the grievances of the People, to relieve those who were illegally oppressed and to restore them to the enjoyment of Liberty, their common Birth-right by the Law of the Land; which the Lord hath signally owned, and blest from Heaven, and the good People have abundantly rejoyced in.

That so long as it shall be judged Necessary to keep up an Army for the preservation of the People from the attempts of the common Enemy, Domestick or Forain, the

Officers

Officers and Souldiers who have hazarded their lives for the Nations Liberty, may not be turned out of their respective imployments without a legall triall at a Court-Martiall, that so the Military Power may be preserved in the hands of such, who are not meerly Mercinary, Newters, or Disaffected.

And that as the safety of our Religion is concerned in the Defence of our Civill Rights, so such provision may now be made for the encouragement of the sincere Professours of the same; that no tender Conscience may be oppressed. And in doing these things you will be glorious Instruments in the hand of God, and Honourable in your Country, And the Lives and Estates of your Petitioners shall be freely exposed to hazard in your just Defence.

And Your Petitioners, &c.

Your Petitioners accompting it no small part of their Birth-right (as *English-men*) not onely to chuse their Successive Representatives, but also freely to present their desires and grievances to them when Assembled in Parliament, drew up the Petition above written; with intentions to have submitted the matters therein contained to the judicious consideration of the last Parliment, at their last Session, when the Doores were set open to all its members, but were by the sudden unexpected Dissolution thereof prevented.

But we humbly crave leave to acquaint your Honours with severall unusual and intollerable Breaches made upon our Freedome, and the dear bought Liberty of all the People of *England*, concerned with ours therein; both during the time of the modest, sober, and peaceable procedure in the management of the said Petition and afterwards; Whilest we were promoting it many threatnings were cast forth against the persons concerned therein; After the Dissolution of the Parliament, the Petition it self was highly Censured; and some of the Petitioners were imprisoned for appearing therein, and others discharged from their Imployments for favouring the good things Petitioned for.

Where-

Wherefore Your Petitionrs farther pray,

That the Right of ſober, peaceable Petitioning unto Parliaments may be aſſerted and ſecured to the People.

That your Petitioners may be vindicated, and ſuch who have ſuſtained illegall reſtraint, or been turned out of their places for owning the ſaid Petition, may be repaired and ſatisfied. *And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.*

This Petition being ſigned by many thouſands, was preſented to the Parliament, by ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace, Gentlemen, Merchants and Citizens, who preſented the ſame to the Parliament in the Name of the reſt.

Tueſday, *the* 15th. *of* February, 1658.

The Houſe being informed, that thoſe Gentlemen of good affections to the Common-wealth, who formerly attended to deliver a Petition to this Houſe, were without at the doore, they were called in, and Mr. *Samuell Moyer* in the name of the reſt, preſented to the Houſe their Petition, and afterwards the Petitioners withdrew.

The Petition was read, and was directed to the Parliament of the Common-wealth of *England*, and was intituled; *The Humble Petition of divers* Citizens *and Inhabitants in and about* London.

Reſolved, &c.

That the Anſwer to be given to the Petitioners ſhall be, That the Houſe hath read their Petition. That ſome of the particulars mentioned in their Petition, the Houſe hath already taken into Conſideration, and that ſuch others as are fit for the conſideration of this Houſe, they will in due time conſider of them, and doe expect that the Petitioners *ſhould acquieſce therein, according to their own expreſſions.*

The Petitioners were again called in, and Mr. Speaker gave them the Anſwer of the Houſe accordingly.

Jo. Smythe *Clerk of the* Parliament.

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